

# **MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND BOARD**

MSUFCU Community Room  
4825 Mt. Hope Rd.  
East Lansing, MI 48823

June 13, 2023  
1:00PM – 3:00PM  
Call in: 248-509-0316  
Phone Conference ID: 425 231 500#

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Tim Boring  
Member Stephen Shine  
Member Gwyn Atkinson-Lewis  
Member Brian Bourdages  
Member Remy Long  
Member Gregory Thon

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Member Mary Ann Heidemann

### **BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

Chip Kraus  
Elizabeth Brost

### **PUBLIC GUESTS PRESENT:**

Sylvia Renteria, MDARD Director of Finance and Budget  
Public Attendees (In person and teleconference)

### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Michigan Agriculture Preservation Fund Board (APFB) meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chairman Boring. A roll call of members in attendance was conducted by Chairman Boring (noted above); a quorum was established.

### **Approval of Agenda**

APFB members reviewed the agenda presented.

### **MOTION**

Member Shine motioned to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Thon. Motion carried with no abstentions.

### **Approval of April 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

APFB members reviewed the April 27, 2023, meeting minutes.

### **MOTION**

Member Atkinson-Lewis motioned to approve the April 27, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Member Bourdages. Motion carried with no abstentions.

### **Revising The Annual Schedule of Board Meetings**

The Board discussed revisions to the meeting schedule for the remainder of the calendar year. Members discussed their availability to meet in September and December.

### **MOTION**

Member Thon motioned to approve moving the remaining meeting dates to September 26 at 1:00 PM, and December 14 at 1:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Member Long. Motion carried with no abstentions.

### **Funding Overview**

Sylvia Renteria, MDARD Director of Finance and Budget, gave an overview of the creation of the Agricultural Preservation Fund, statutory revenue sources, revenue and spending histories, and future goals.

APFB members discussed the presentation and presented several inquiries to MDARD staff.

### **Wing Family Recognition**

APFB members discussed Paul Wing's long history of conservation in Michigan. A request was made to authorize MDARD staff to draft a document on behalf of the APFB to recognize Paul Wing and the Wing Family. The document would be signed by the Director and presented to the APFB at their next scheduled meeting.

### **MOTION**

Member Long motioned to approve the request, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Bourdages. Motion carried with no abstentions.

### **Qualified Local Programs/Allowable Number of Applications**

APFB members discussed revisions to the APFB policies and procedures to eliminate the restriction of only allowing one application per qualified program per year. Members discussed their concerns over a fair and equitable process for all qualified programs and continued conservation of the highest quality parcels of land. Revised APFB policy language for funding priorities will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **MOTION**

Member Bourdages motioned to approve removal of the limitation for one application per qualified program from the APFB policies and procedures. The motion was seconded by Member Long. The motion carried with no abstentions.

### **Application Scoring Overview/Demonstration**

Elizabeth Brost provided an overview of the approved application scoring criteria found in the APFB Policies and Procedures.

### **Grant Amendment Request – Kent County**

A request was received from Kent County to increase the grant funding awarded to Kent County for the Bettes/Kingsbury farm on February 14, 2023. The additional amount requested is \$65,500 and is based on updated real estate appraisal information. The new grant total requested is \$217,500.

### **MOTION**

Member Shine motioned to approve the grant funding increase of \$65,500 for a new total award of \$217,500. The motion was seconded by Member Long. The motion carried with no abstentions.

### **Grant Amendment Request – Ottawa County**

A request was received from Ottawa County to increase the grant funding awarded to Ottawa County for the Jongerkrijg farm on February 14, 2023. The additional amount requested is \$194,435 and is based on updated real estate appraisal information. The new grant total requested is \$462,334.

### **MOTION**

Member Bourdages motioned to approve the grant funding increase of \$194,435 for a new total award of \$462,334. The motion was seconded by Member Thon. The motion carried with no abstentions.

### **GIS Conservation Easement Mapping Update**

Update provided on MDARD efforts to improve GIS mapping functionality for agricultural conservation easements and communicated the importance of meeting the goals and expectations of the members.

### **Public Comment**

Members of the public offered comments.

### **Adjourn**

APFB members requested a motion to adjourn.

### **MOTION**

Member Shine motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Member Thon. Motion carried with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 PM.